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THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

President Wilson has created two new national monuments within the last several weeks, one in the Montezuma Valley of southwestern Colorado and the other in Nebraska. Both were created for historical reasons.

YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

This large prehistoric ruin has been well known for many years under the title of the Aztec Springs Ruin; the name was changed because Aztecs had nothing to do with this region. It lies a few miles west of the Mesa Verde National Park. The Montezuma Valley, upon whose edge it is found, had a considerable population in prehistoric times; it was here that some archaeologists ~~5400000~~ that the residents of the Mesa Verde moved their homes.

Dr. W. H. Holmes and W. W. Jackson first described this ruin in 1877. Two large community houses were the central features of this village. Dr. W.W. Fewkes reported in 1919 that no ruined village in the Montezuma Valley so stirred his "enthusiasm to properly excavate and repair".

The land upon which the buildings stand, approximately ten acres, is the gift of Mr. Henry Van Kleeck of Denver, Colorado.

SCOTT'S BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT.

This celebrated landmark of the old Oregon Trail received its name from what Washington Irving called in his Adventures of Captain Bonneville, "a melancholy circumstance".

In 1822 General Ashley of St. Louis with a party of a hundred men started on a hunting and trapping expedition into the Rocky Mountains. Before

the foothills were reached privations and dangers had reduced the number to forty. These forty, however, included some of the history makers of the west, among whom was Hiram Scott, a "free trapper", meaning that he gathered hides and fur for Hiram and not a fur company. Six years later Scott and a number of his fellow pioneers, after forming the second Northwest Fur company--the first one having been merged into the Hudson Bay company--were returning to Saint Louis when about 600 miles up the Platte River, Scott became stricken with fever.

Two companions,--Roi, "the man of the desert", and Bissonette, a squaw man, remained with him, the three planning to join the rest of the party at a designated bluff or mountain about a hundred miles below. Their boat was upset about twenty miles west of the point where Ft. Laramie now stands; provisions, powder and guns being lost, but the men reaching shore.

At this spot Scott was deserted by his companions. He crawled over hills, sagebrush and gullies for about a hundred miles dying at the foot of the bluff where he expected to rejoin his party, and which now bears his name.

Scenically, Scott's Bluff is also worthy of national notice and preservation. Each summer hundreds of persons make the difficult ascent to its top, and from its elevation of 4,662 feet, see six towns nestled in the North Platte Valley, and many miles of irrigated acres of green alfalfa, golden grain and other crops. This promontory and the hills adjoining on the west are the highest known points within the state of Nebraska, and are the pride of the citizens of the city of Scott's Bluff, and also of Gering, a few miles distant. In frontier days it was called the Gibraltar of Nebraska.